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Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Air and Space Force

Success Story

MASTER SERGEANT STEVEN TUSS RECEIVES IDEA AWARD



Master Sergeant Steven Tuss, a technician with the AFRL Directed Energy Directorate's Laser Effects Research Branch, submitted through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) program an idea to improve his work area and received a \$10,000 award for his efforts. Using his method, technicians avoid the potentially hazardous environment created by chemical laser operations.



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Accomplishment

MSgt Tuss implemented a networking capability method that allows experimenters remote access to the experiment control-room computers. The method he proposed is estimated to save 1 work hour per day and approximately \$97,200 in first-year savings. His proposal, "Remote Data Acquisition Triggering," was implemented and has become standard practice in the laboratory. Spurred by concern for himself and his fellow technicians, who would have to enter the experiment room to fix malfunctions during experiments, and looking for a foolproof data acquisition system, MSgt Tuss devised a method to access the equipment via remote access.

MSgt Tuss' proposal involved adding a computer with dual monitors and shielded Ethernet cabling for remote access to another computer terminal in a nearby experiment control room. Normally, the control room would be inaccessible during an experiment, and any false or missing computer information would jeopardize experiment data collection. However, with remote access, experimenters are now able to catch potential errors in advance, along with any actual errors as they occur.

Background

The IDEA program is an incentive program that recognizes submitters for ideas that benefit the government by streamlining processes or improving/increasing productivity and efficiency. The IDEA program is open to any and all submitters, but only Air Force military and civilian members are eligible for cash awards. The cash amount is based on a percentage of the estimated first-year savings to the government, around 3% to 15%.

Additional Information

To receive more information about this or other activities in the Air Force Research Laboratory, contact TECH CONNECT, AFRL/XPTC, (800) 203-6451 and you will be directed to the appropriate laboratory expert. (04-DE-08)